REMARKS

Claims 1 and 8 have been objected to for there are extra periods. After a review of the original document, it is respectfully submitted that these periods should be commas of a poor printing result. Objection of these claims should be moot.

Claims 6, 16, and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Appropriate amendments have been made.

Examiner Tentoni has rejected the originally filed claims 1-20 of the present application. For the reasons which follow, applicant respectfully traverses this rejection of the Examiner.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation of the island polymer. More specifically, amended claim recites, *inter alia*, "...**wherein said island polymer is an polyolefin polymer having a density less than 1.0 g/cm^3 and a flexural modulus more than 9000kg/cm^2.**"

It is well known to manufacture artificial leather providing a sense of touch similar to a genuine one. Lightweight artificial leather with the genuine-like and fluff-like properties is the trend in the art. The substrate of the artificial leather must have a considerable thickness to provide the genuine-like and fluff-like properties, which means considerable cost in the material. A solution to this problem is increasing the density of the island polymer such that the density of the island polymer after removal of a portion of the island polymer is still capable of providing the required thickness for providing the fluff-like property. However, the resultant artificial leather results in an increase in the weight of the substrate and the artificial leather made from the substrate. Further, the artificial leather is too hard.

In the present invention, by using an island polymer that is a polyolefin polymer having a density less than 1.0 g/cm^3 and a flexural modulus more than 9000kg/cm^2, an ultrafine fiber with required properties for manufacturing artificial leather with genuine-like and fluff-like properties is obtained. Yoneda et al fail to disclose use of such an island polymer to manufacture an ultrafine fiber. Amended claim 1 is thus distinctly patentable over Yoneda et al.

Amended claim 9 defines a method for producing an ultrafine fiber substrate by using an island polymer that is a polyolefin polymer having a density less than 1.0 g/cm^3 and a flexural modulus more than 9000kg/cm^2. The substrate obtained in accordance with the present invention has a thickness large enough to provide the genuine-like and fluff-like properties. This is because the polyolefin polymer having a density less than 1.0 g/cm^3 and a flexural modulus

more than 9000kg/cm^2. The overall weight of the artificial leather manufactured by the method in accordance with the present invention is relatively light and soft as compared to those obtained by conventional methods. Further, the required genuine-like and fluff-like properties are not sacrificed by the method in accordance with the present invention.

Yoneda el al fail to disclose or teach use of the island polymer recited in amended claim 9 to produce an ultrafine fiber substrate for artificial leather. Amended claim 9 is thus distinctly patentable over Yoneda et al.

Since claims 1 and 9 of the present application as amended include limitations directed to the features of the applicant's methods for manufacturing an ultrafine fiber and an inltrafine fiber substrate which are neither shown, described, taught, nor alluded to in the cited reference as indicated by the Examiner, the Examiner is requested to allow the pending claims of the present application and to pass this application to issue.

In view of the foregoing amendments, it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels could best be resolved by either a personal or telephone interview, he is urged to contact Applicant's attorney at the exchange listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Ching-Tang Wang et al.

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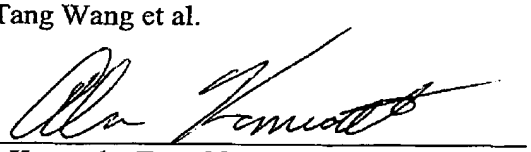
By: 

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